Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, starting at line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Each printer 106 is equipped with a bid-based prioritizer 130. The prioritizer 130 examines print jobs in the printer queue and awards priority based on two criteria. First, the print jobs are ordered based on the number of tokens bid by the user. The print job with the highest bid is given highest priority in the queue. The print job with the next most tokens is granted second highest priority, and so on.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, starting at line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph.

When multiple print jobs bid the same number of tokens, resulting in a tie under the first criterion, the prioritizer uses a second criterion to break the tie among the multiple print jobs. The second criterion may be implemented in multiple ways, such as awarding priority to the first print job received, or granting priority based on user seniority or physical proximity to the printer 106, or assigning priority according to some other heuristic.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, starting at line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph.

The two-tier prioritizing process reflects the continually changing printing needs of various network users. In Fig. 1, for example, suppose the user of client PC 102(1) needs to print a document very quickly and thus submits a print job (PJ) 140 with a bid of four tokens 142. About the same time, the user of client laptop 102(2) is also pressed for time and decides to send a print job 144 with a bid of three tokens 146. The user of the wireless PDA 102(n), however, does not place any importance on priority and thus forwards a print job 148 with a bid of one token 150. In this example, the printer 106 will award top priority to the print job 140 with a bid of four tokens 142, second priority

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to the print job 144 with a bid of three tokens 146, and last priority to print job 148 with a bid of one token 150.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, starting at line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Each user enters their bid via the bid UI 124. Fig. 2 shows an exemplary graphical window 200 presented by the bid UI 124 when the user is ready to submit a print job to the printer 106. The window 200 includes a bid field 202 that allows the user to enter the number of tokens for the print job. The more tokens entered, the greater the chance of being awarded first priority and being moved to the top of the queue. The window 200 also has a token balance field 204 that lists the number of tokens remaining in the wallet 122.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, starting at line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph.

The window 200 may be optionally equipped with a limit field 206 that allows the user to place a maximum number of tokens that they are willing to bid in the event that other users out bid the initial bid. In this example, the user enters an initial bid of two tokens, but is willing to bid as much as five tokens if another user outbids two tokens. After the bid is entered, the user clicks the "OK" button 208 to submit the print job and the bid to the designated printer 106.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, starting at line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph.

The printer 106 receives the various print jobs and bids, and places them in a queue. Initially, the print jobs may be queued in the order in which they were received and subsequently rearranged. Alternatively, the print jobs may be temporarily stored elsewhere and examined to determine their priority before they are put in the queue.

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Please replace the paragraph on page 7, starting at line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph.

The prioritizer 130 may also be configured to use fewer tokens than are bid. This is particularly useful in those cases where the bid beats any current bids by more than one token or there are no other print jobs in the queue. For instance, consider the situation where a user with a rush job submits a bid of five tokens, but the highest bid of any print jobs in the queue is only two tokens. In this case, the user's print job will be processed first due to its high bid. Notice, however, that the user's job would still be processed first with a lower bid that exceeds two tokens. Accordingly, the prioritizer 130 automatically reduces the number of tokens expended to process the print job to the lowest value that still carries out the user's intention. Here, the prioritizer 130 reduces the bid to three tokens. Furthermore, had there been no print jobs at all, the prioritizer 130 may automatically reduce the number of tokens to zero.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, starting at line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Once the print jobs are completed, the printer 106 may optionally report back to the user computers the actual number of tokens expended to process the print job. These amounts are then deducted from the token wallet 122 at the respective user machines. If the tokens are cryptographically generated, they may be either destroyed at the printer 106 or reported back to the token server 108 to track whether users are legitimately spending their tokens or are fraudulently double spending them.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, starting at line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Modifications may be made to the above-described architecture. For example, in one alternative implementation, the printer 106 may be configured to store the tokens and track token usage on behalf of the user. This alternative would eliminate the use of the token wallet 122 at the user computers 102. As another alternative, the printer 106 itself

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may be configured to allocate tokens to individual user accounts maintained at the printer 106, thereby removing the function of the token server 108 in this modified architecture.